

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (New) A multimedia communication apparatus that transmits control data to start transmitting stream data comprising an image stream or a voice stream, said apparatus comprising:

an accumulator that accumulates a plurality of groups into which a plurality of control data are classified, each group comprising data that can be transmitted simultaneously;

a determiner that determines to which group each of said plurality of control data belongs;

a multiplexer that multiplexes control data determined to belong to the same group so as to generate multiplexed control data; and

a transmitter that transmits said multiplexed control data in one transmission unit.

10. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said accumulator accumulates, in the same

group, one control data and another control data that can be transmitted without waiting for a reception acknowledgment signal of said one data from a communication partner.

11. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the multiplexer multiplexes, for each of a plurality of the groups, control data determined to belong to the group so as to generate multiplexed control data for the group; and

the transmitter transmits the multiplexed control data generated for all of the groups in one transmission unit.

12. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a timer that repeatedly measures a predetermined time period, wherein said transmitter transmits for every time period the multiplexed control data generated for the time period.

13. (New) A multimedia communication method that transmits control data to start transmitting stream data comprising an image stream or a voice stream, said method comprising:

determining to which group each of a plurality of control data belongs from among a plurality of groups said plurality of

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control data are classified into, each group comprising data that can be transmitted simultaneously;

 multiplexing control data determined to belong to the same group and generating multiplexed control data; and

 transmitting said multiplexed control data in one transmission unit.